

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08471 191047Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 SYE-00 EA-07 /020 W
-----191055Z 005765 /13

O R 191020Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1281
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: CONTRABAND ALLEGEDLY ADDRESSED TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
SEIZED

1. ANAN PANANANDA, DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS, DON MUANG AIRPORT, BANGKOK, CALLED REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE TUESDAY MORNING TO REPORT HE QUESTIONED DOCUMENTATION ON A LARGE AIR SHIPMENT SUPPOSEDLY DESTINED FOR AMEMBASSY RANGOON THROUGH BANGKOK.

2. RSO MADE IMMEDIATE TRIP TO AIRPORT AND WAS INFORMED UPON ARRIVAL THAT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HAD THE SHIPMENT STAKED OUT AND WERE EXPECTING AN ARREST MOMENTARILY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THEY APPREHENDED TWO THAI NATIONALS WHO SAID THEY WERE TO PICK UP THE MATERIAL AND FORWARD IT TO BURMA VIA "MILITARY AIRCRAFT".

3. RSO INSPECTED THE TWO 10' X 6' X 4' LIFT VANS (3,256 KILOS) AND ASCERTAINED THAT THEY WERE NOT OF US GOVERNMENT ORIGIN OR DOCUMENTATION. CUSTOMS OPENED THEM AND DISCOVERED A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF CONTRABAND WRISTWATCHES
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AND ELECTRONIC GEAR.

4. SHIPMENT WAS ADDRESSED TO "MR. GUSTAF B. CARLSON, C/O AMERICAN EMBASSY, RANGOON, BURMA, IN TRANSIT AT BANGKOK, C/O AMERICAN EMBASSY, BANGKOK, THAILAND". THE SHIPPER'S NAME WAS GIVEN AS "ANDREW KWAN, 45D BROADWAY, 11/F, MEI FU ESTATE, HONG KONG". THE PORT OF BANGKOK

TRANSSHIPMENT ENTRY CERTIFICATE INDICATED THAT AIR WAY BILL "XO26-11-22071 PERSONAL EFFECTS (FURNITURE)" WAS TO BE OFF-LOADED IN BANGKOK AND TRANSSHIPPED ON USAF 342 TO BURMA. (NOTE: THERE ARE NO USAF FLIGHTS TO RANGOON. IN FACT, THE ONLY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN COUNTRY ARE TWO VERY SMALL PASSENGER PLANES INCAPABLE OF CARRYING LARGE CRATES OF THIS SIZE.)

5. ONE OF THE MEN ARRESTED WAS SAMARN WONGPHADUNG, A FORMER USAID TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE IN BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE. THE OTHER, A ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE NCO, WAS NOT IDENTIFIED.

6. THAI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE FULLY AWARE THERE WAS NO US INVOLVEMENT AND STATED GRATITUDE FOR EMBASSY'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE AND COOPERATION. ALL AGREED THE SHIPMENT WAS MEANT FOR THE BANGKOK MARKET AND HOPE TO BREAK A VERY ACTIVE SMUGGLING RING USING INFORMATION GAINED FROM THESE ARRESTS AND SEIZURE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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SAS ID: 2769558
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTRABAND ALLEGEDLY ADDRESSED TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON SEIZED
TAGS: ASEC
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